

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment is requested. The amendments addresses the points raised in the Office Action, as explained herein.

With respect to the rejection of claims 80, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 96 and 97, this is ultimately, a rejection of claim 80 only.

Essentially, the Examiner's issue, if understood, is that the function of "cancer associated antigen" has not been recited in the claims. The Examiner points to U.S. Patent Nos. 6,500,942 and 6,255,470, as presenting "appropriate parallel terminology."

The '470 patent describes and claims a cancer associated antigen, so the language of claim 1 of '470 has been adopted for claim 80 of this application. Support is found in the specification at, e.g., example 10, where a library of nucleic acid molecules was screened against autologous sera. In other words, nucleic acid molecules were inserted into recipient cells, and tested against autologous sera. SEQ ID NO: 15 encoded a protein which reacted with the autologous sera. Prior examples showed the nucleic acid molecule was associated with cancer cells only. Hence, the nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein which provokes a humoral, e.g., antibody response, as claimed. The amendments are proper, and the claim should be deemed allowable. Applicants have addressed the issues raised in the final rejection, i.e., the claims recite a specific function, and language the Examiner deemed appropriate is recited.

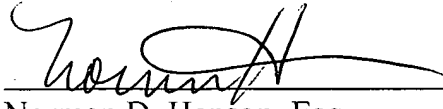
If this is not what the Examiner wants, then prosecution must be reopened, since the final rejection is not clear. The function recited is the function, recited in 6,255,470, cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner indicates at page 5 of the amendment that all other issues are moot, so no further discussion is necessary.

Allowance of this application is called for.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman D. Hanson", is written over a horizontal line.

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